



University Institute of Psychotherapy

On the Dark Side

Public Conference
2 October 2020, 20h



Centre hospitalier
universitaire vaudois

Friday October 2nd — Public Conference

Ferdinand Hodler: Representing death

Niklaus Manuel Güdel, Geneva

Considered as a main driving force of artistic modernity during his lifetime, Ferdinand Hodler developed his artwork around symbolic themes and the idea of universal harmony. Orphaned by father and mother, affected by the successive loss of all his brothers and sisters, the Swiss painter made the theme of death a central subject of his artistic thinking. In Holbein's wake, he thus took a position among the artists whose representations of death have had a profound impact on the history of art. If there is nothing innovative about representing death in the 19th century, it is the repetition of the motif in his work that bestows upon it such a strong dimension. By representing day after day Valentine Godé-Darel's agony, Hodler first proposed a complete, if not exhaustive, artistic testimony of the end of life, in its most melancholic sense. This lecture provides an overview of this perspective that likens an empirical observation of existence and its purpose.

Chair ● **Professor Jean-Nicolas Despland** Lausanne

Discussion ● **Professor Anne Brun** Lyon

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Public Conference Venue

CHUV - Auditorium César Roux
Metro M2, Stop CHUV

The public lecture languages
will be English and French
(with simultaneous translation)

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Image:
Ferdinand Hodler, *Coucher de soleil sur le Léman*
1914, huile sur toile, 61 x 90 cm
Kunsthaus Zurich